



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Speaker Naize expresses condolences over the passing of
Chairman Jimmy R. Newton, Jr. of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe**

WINDOW ROCK – On behalf of the 22nd Navajo Nation Council, Speaker Johnny Naize (Low Mountain, Many Farms, Nazlini, Tachee/Blue Gap, Tselani/Cottonwood) extends his heartfelt condolences to the family of the late Jimmy R. Newton, Chairman of the Southern Ute Indian Tribal Council, who passed away on March 31.

“It is always difficult to accept the loss of a great leader. I extend my deepest condolences to Chairman Newton’s wife and daughter during this difficult time. His words of wisdom, his accomplishments, and his teachings will never be forgotten.”

Chairman Newton previously served as a Tribal Council member and as Vice Chairman, prior to being elected as Chairman of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe in 2012.

“Chairman Newton will always be remembered as a loving family man who also served his people with great dignity and respect,” Speaker Naize said. “My thoughts and prayers are with his family and with the people of the Southern Ute Tribe.”

According to the tribe’s constitution, a special election will be held within 60 days to fill the chairman position. Until then, Vice Chairman James M. Olguin will exercise the authority of the Chairman’s office.

Chairman Newton was recognized as one of the youngest tribal members to ever run for and win the Chairman position on the Southern Ute Tribal Council.

Funeral arrangements are pending and will be made available on the tribe’s website when services are confirmed.

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